

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading device comprising:
an optical reader for reading an original in a main scanning direction;
a transporter for transporting the original in a sub scanning direction; and
a ~~guide member transport path for guiding~~configured to guide the original read by the optical reader to an original eject slot,
wherein the ~~guide member transport path comprises a lower guide surface which also serves as a light-blocking portion, wherein at least a portion of the lower guide surface is provided with a light-blocking portion with its upper surface positioned above~~ an extended plane of a reading surface of the optical reader.
2. (Currently Amended) The image reading device according to claim 1,
further comprising a first slant surface provided between the reading surface of the optical reader and the light-blocking portion.
3. (Currently Amended) The image reading device according to claim 2,
further comprising upper guide surfaces, the upper guide surfaces respectively facing the light-blocking portion and the first slant surface at a predetermined distance.

4. (Currently Amended) The image reading device according to claim 1,
further comprising a ~~cover~~ surface provided around a substantial portion of a periphery of the transporter in such a manner as to face the transporter at a predetermined distance.
5. (Currently Amended) The image reading device according to claim 2,
further comprising a ~~cover~~ surface provided around a substantial portion of a periphery of the transporter in such a manner as to face the transporter at a predetermined distance.
6. (Currently Amended) The image reading device according to claim 3,
further comprising a ~~cover~~ surface provided around a substantial portion of a periphery of the transporter in such a manner as to face the transporter at a predetermined distance.
7. (New) The image reading device of claim 2,
wherein said transport path further comprises an upper guide surface provided with a second slant surface adjacent said first slant surface.
8. (New) The image reading device of claim 3,
wherein at least one of said upper guide surfaces comprises a second slant surface adjacent said first slant surface.

9. (New) The image reading device of claim 1, wherein downstream from the optical reader the transport path comprises plural non-planar surfaces, the lower guide surface forming at least one of the plural non-planar surfaces.

10. (New) An image reading device comprising:
an optical reader configured to read an original in a main scanning direction, the optical reader including a reading surface inclined toward a sub scanning direction;
a transporter configured to transport the original in the sub scanning direction; and
upper and lower guide members configured to guide the original read by the optical reader to an original eject slot, the upper and lower guide members also configured to define an original transport path inclined toward the sub scanning direction,
wherein the lower guide member comprises a light-blocking portion configured to block direct incidence of external light through the original transport path on the reading surface of the optical reader.

11. (New) An image reading device according to claim 10, further comprising:
a slant surface provided between the reading surface of the optical reader and the light-blocking portion, the slant surface being slanted upwardly toward the sub scanning direction.

12. (New) An image reading device according to claim 11,
wherein the upper guide member and the lower guide member face each other at
such a distance that the original passes through without being jammed.

13. (New) An image reading device according to claim 12 , further
comprising:
a cover surface provided around the transporter in such a manner as to face the
transporter at a predetermined distance.